IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition method comprising:

~~a file request information transmission step of~~ transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

~~a file reception step of~~ receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

~~a temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received; ~~in the file reception step;~~

~~a determination step of~~ determining if contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

~~a contents request information transmission step of~~ transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

~~a data reception step of~~ receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

~~a contents identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is registered

in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed; ~~in the data reception~~

~~step;~~

~~an attributes request information transmission step of~~ transmitting attributes request

information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the

contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the

attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary

storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

~~an attributes information reception step of~~ receiving the contents attributes

information corresponding to the attributes request information;

~~a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily

storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents

attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes

information; ~~in the attributes information reception step;~~

~~a registration step of~~ registering the contents data and the contents attributes

information in the database; [[and]]

~~a temporarily stored information deletion step of~~ deleting the temporarily stored

information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents

attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes

information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes

information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an acquisition start information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing acquisition start information for starting acquisition of the contents data before the transmitting of the file request information. ~~transmission step.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

~~an acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step of~~ determining if the acquisition start information is temporarily stored or not when a communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the external apparatus;

~~an in-storage contents identification information temporary storage determination step of~~ determining if the in-storage contents identification information is temporarily stored or not when it is determined that the acquisition start information is temporarily stored; ~~in the acquisition start information temporary in-storage determination step;~~ and

~~a restoration time attributes request information transmission step of~~ transmitting the attribute request information reacquiring the contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data that correspond to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address when it is determined that the in-

storage contents identification information is temporarily stored. ~~in the in-storage contents~~

~~identification information temporary-storage determination step.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

~~an acquisition/use file deletion step of~~ deleting the acquisition/use file when the

communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection with the

external apparatus;

~~a file re-request information transmission step of~~ transmitting a file re-request

information requesting the updated acquisition/use file;

~~a file re-reception step of~~ receiving the updated acquisition/use file corresponding to

the file re-request information;

~~an updated file temporary-storage step of~~ temporarily storing the received updated

acquisition/use file; and

~~a contents identification information temporary in-storage determination step of~~

determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing

address in the updated acquisition/use file is temporarily stored or not, wherein

the <u>transmitting</u> contents request information ~~transmission step being~~ <u>is</u> adapted to

transmit the contents request information requesting the contents data corresponding to the

contents identification information to the external apparatus when it is determined that the

contents identification information is not temporarily stored. ~~in the contents identification~~

~~information temporary in-storage determination step.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising<u>:</u>

~~a contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination~~

~~step of~~ determining if the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the

contents identification information is temporarily stored [[on]] or not when it is determined

that the contents identification information is temporarily stored, in the contents identification

information temporary in-storage determination step, wherein

the transmitting attributes request information transmission step being is adapted to

transmit the attributes request information requesting the contents attributes information

corresponding to the contents attributes identification information to the attributes

information providing address contained in the updated acquisition/use file when it is

determined that the contents attributes identification information is not temporarily stored. in

the contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage determination step.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a registration determination step of determining if the contents attributes information

corresponding to the contents attribute identification information and the contents data

corresponding to the contents attributes information are registered in the database or not

when it is determined that the contents attributes identification information is temporarily

stored, in the contents attributes identification information temporary in-storage

determination step, wherein

the registering registration step being is adapted to register the contents data and the

contents attributes information when it is determined that the contents data and the contents

attributes information are not registered in the database. in the registration determination step.

10. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing method to be used in a

situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the

contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file

transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing

an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the method comprising:

~~an attributes request information reception step of~~ receiving attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; [[and]]

~~an attributes information transmission step of~~ externally transmitting the contents attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the attributes request information <u>having been</u> received<u>; and</u> ~~in the attributes request information reception step~~

<u>controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information</u>.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information that makes the contents data usable.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the contents attributes information includes the right of use information that makes the contents data reproducible.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the contents attributes information includes right of use information for increasing the number of times of copying the contents data stored in the storage medium to other storage mediums.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

~~a restoration time attributes request information reception step of~~ receiving the attributes request information transmitted when the acquisition start information is temporarily stored and the in-storage contents identification information of the contents data is temporarily stored at the time when the communicable state is restored from a break of the communication connection although the acquisition start information indicating the start of acquisition of the contents data to the external apparatus is temporarily stored and the contents data and the contents attributes information corresponding to the contents data are registered in the database before temporarily storing the acquisition/use file but subsequently the acquisition start information and the in-storage contents identification information that are temporarily stored are erased.

15. (Currently Amended) A contents acquisition apparatus comprising:

a file request information transmission <u>section configured to transmit</u> ~~means for transmitting~~ file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

a file reception <u>section configured to receive</u> ~~means for receiving~~ the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information transmitted by the file request information transmission <u>section</u>; [[means;]]

a temporary storage <u>section configured to temporarily store</u> ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the acquisition/use file received by the file reception <u>section</u>; [[means;]]

a determination <u>section configured to determine</u> ~~means for determining~~ if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

a contents request information transmission <u>section configured to transmit</u> ~~means for transmitting~~ contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined by the determination <u>section</u> [[means]] that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

a data reception <u>section configured to receive</u> ~~means for receiving~~ the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus by the contents request information transmission <u>section</u>; [[means;]]

a contents identification information temporary storage <u>section configured to temporarily store</u> ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined by the determination <u>section</u> [[means]] that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed by the data reception <u>section</u>; [[means;]]

an attributes request information transmission <u>section configured to transmit</u> ~~means for transmitting~~ attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification

9

information by the contents identification information temporary storage <u>section</u> [[means]] is completed;

an attributes information reception <u>section configured to receive</u> ~~means for receiving~~ the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information transmitted by the attributes request information transmission <u>section;</u> [[means;]]

a contents attributes identification information temporary storage <u>section configured to temporarily store</u> ~~means for temporarily storing~~ the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes information by the attributes information reception <u>section;</u> [[means;]]

a registration <u>section configured to register</u> ~~means for registering~~ the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database; [[and]]

a temporarily stored information deletion <u>section configured to delete</u> ~~means for deleting~~ the temporarily stored information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database<u>; and</u>

<u>a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes information.</u>

16. (Currently Amended) An attributes information providing apparatus to be used in a situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file transmitted from an external apparatus is completed after externally and temporarily storing an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and before requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents providing address, the apparatus comprising:

an attributes request information reception <u>section configured to receive</u> ~~means for~~

~~receiving~~ attributes request information requesting contents attributes information for altering

the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification

information transmitted in a condition where the contents identification information

corresponding to the contents providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents

identification information; [[and]]

an attributes information transmission <u>section configured to externally transmit</u> ~~means~~

~~for externally transmitting~~ the contents attributes information of the contents data

corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information in response to the

attributes request information received by the attributes request information reception <u>section;</u>

<u>and</u> [[means.]]

<u>a control section configured to control the reproduction of the contents data based on</u>

<u>the contents attributes information.</u>

17. (Currently Amended) A <u>computer-readable medium encoded with a</u> contents

acquisition program for causing an information processing apparatus to execute:

~~a file request information transmission step of~~ transmitting file request information

that requests an acquisition/use file containing a contents providing address corresponding to

a request for acquiring contents data stored in an external apparatus and an attributes

information providing address;

~~a file reception step of~~ receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file

request information;

~~a temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received<u>;</u> ~~in the~~

~~file reception step;~~

~~a determination step of~~ determining if the contents identification information corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

~~a contents request information transmission step of~~ transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

~~a data reception step of~~ receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

~~a contents identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents identification information when it is determined ~~in the determination step~~ that the contents identification information is registered in the database or when the reception of the contents data is completed; ~~in the data reception step;~~

~~an attributes request information transmission step of~~ transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the acquisition/use file when the temporary storage of the in-storage contents identification information is completed;

~~an attributes information reception step of~~ receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request information;

~~a contents attributes identification information temporary storage step of~~ temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to the contents

attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents attributes

information; ~~in the attributes information reception step;~~

~~a registration step of~~ registering the contents data and the contents attributes

information in the database; [[and]]

~~a temporarily stored information deletion step of~~ deleting the temporarily stored

information after the completion of the registration of the contents data and the contents

attributes information in the database; and

controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes

information.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with an attributes

information providing program to be executed by an information processing apparatus in a

situation where contents data are already registered in a database or the reception of the

contents data corresponding to the contents providing address in the acquisition request file

transmitted from an external apparatus is completed before externally and temporarily storing

an acquisition/use file containing the contents providing address corresponding to the

acquisition request for contents data to an external apparatus and after requesting the contents

data corresponding to the contents providing address, the program comprising:

~~an attributes request information reception step of~~ receiving attributes request

information requesting contents attributes information for altering the attributes of the

contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents identification information transmitted

in a condition where the contents identification information corresponding to the contents

providing address is temporarily stored as in-storage contents identification information; and

~~an attributes information transmission step of~~ externally transmitting the contents

attributes information of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage contents

identification information in response to the attributes request information <u>having been</u>

received<u>; and</u> ~~in the attributes request information reception step.~~

<u>controlling reproduction of the contents data based on the contents attributes</u>

<u>information.</u>

19. (New) A contents acquisition method comprising:

transmitting file request information that requests an acquisition/use file containing a

contents providing address corresponding to a request for acquiring contents data stored in an

external apparatus and an attributes information providing address;

receiving the acquisition/use file corresponding to the file request information;

temporarily storing the acquisition/use file received;

determining if contents identification information corresponding to the contents

providing address in the acquisition/use file is registered in a database or not;

transmitting contents request information for requesting the contents data

corresponding to the contents identification information to the external apparatus if it is

determined that the contents identification information is not registered in the database;

receiving the contents data transmitted from the external apparatus as a result of

transmitting the contents request information to the external apparatus;

temporarily storing the contents identification information as in-storage contents

identification information when it is determined that the contents identification information is

registered in the database and temporarily storing the contents identification information as

in-storage contents identification information when the reception of the contents data is

completed;

transmitting attributes request information for requesting contents attributes

information for altering the attributes of the contents data corresponding to the in-storage

contents identification information to the attributes information providing address in the

acquisition/use file when the temporarily storing of the in-storage contents identification

information is completed;

receiving the contents attributes information corresponding to the attributes request

information;

temporarily storing the contents attributes identification information corresponding to

the contents attributes information after the completion of the reception of the contents

attributes information in the receiving the contents attributes information;

registering the contents data and the contents attributes information in the database;

and

deleting the temporarily stored information after the registration of the contents data

and the contents attributes information in the database.